

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /088 W

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R 201200Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4896

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, NG, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN INTENTIONS TOWARDS NIGER

1. WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST AMBASSADOR HECK'S FAREWELL
MESSAGES FROM NIAMEY, AND IN PARTICULAR PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S
REMARKKS ABOUT ALGERIA AND LIBYA IN PARA 9 OF NIAMEY'S 3292.
KOUNTCHE'S UNEASINESS ABOUT ALGERIAN INTENTIONS IS UNDER-
STANDABLE. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS THERE HAS BEEN MUCH EVIDENCE
OF A CONCERTED ALGERIAN EFFORT TO EXTEND INFLUENCE THROUGH
ACQUIRING NEW CLIENTS IN WEST AFRICA. THE STEADY STREAM
OF VISITORS FROM GUINEA-BISSAU, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR ALGERIA LINKS WITH WEST AFRICAN CAPITALS
HAVING LITTLE ALGIERS-BOUND TRAFFIC, THE ALGERIAN ROLE
IN ANGOLA QUESTION, AND THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF BENIN
TO BE ALGERIA'S STALKING HORSE ON THE SAHARA QUESTION AT THE
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LAST OAU SUMMIT, ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF THEIR

DIPLOMATIC PUSH TO THE SOUTH WHICH COME MOST READILY TO MIND.

2. WE HAVE SEEN NO LOCAL INDICATION, HOWEVER, OF
ALGERIAN DESIGNS ON NIGER.
BOUMEDIENE OF COURSE WANTS COMPATIBLE REGIMES ON HIS
BORDERS WHEREVER POSSIBLE, BUT HE DOES NOT SEEM TO REGARD
KOUNTCHE AS INIMICAL, NOR IS HE GIVING HOUSE TO ANY NIGER
OPPOSITION GROUPS, AS HE IS IN THE CASE OF CHAD. DEPENDING
ON HIS NEED FOR LIBYAN HELP, BOUMEDIENE MIGHT ACQUIESCE IN,
OR EVEN COOPERATE PASSIVELY, IN A LIBYAN ATTEMPT AGAINST
KOUNTCHE, BUT WE DOUBT THAT HE WOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE
IN IT. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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